

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 075299
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MDSTERNBERG:LLC
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
AF/E:RWBAKER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 075299

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS IS KE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI TRIAL OF PFLP TERRORISTS: KENYAN CONCERN

REF: (A) NAIROBI 4063, (B) TEL AVIV 2269

1. WE APPRECIATE SENSITIVITY OF ISRAELI TRIAL OF PFLP
TERRORISTS FOR KENYANS AND KENYANS' DESIRE TO LIMIT
PUBLICITY RE THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THIS AFFAIR. WE ALSO
UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACTS
BETWEEN ISRAEL AND KENYA AND THAT KENYANS HAVE IMMEDIATE
CHANNELS AVAILABLE THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD CONVEY THEIR
CONCERNS TO GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

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2. FURTHERMORE, ISRAELIS CONSIDER THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH
KENYA AS IMPORTANT AND EVEN WITHOUT KENYAN APPROACH UNDOUBT-
EDLY ARE MINDFUL OF KENYAN SENSITIVITIES AND
PROBLEMS WHICH THEIR ACTIONS CAN CREATE FOR THAT GOVERNMENT.
WE BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO AVOID ANY
PUBLICITY ON KENYA'S ROLE IN AFFAIR, PROBABLY JUDGED THAT

SOME PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM THE TRIAL WOULD BE INEVITABLE,
AND CONCLUDED THAT ISRAELI INTERESTS NEVERTHELESS WARRANTED
RISKING SUCH PUBLICITY.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A U.S. APPROACH ON THIS
MATTER WOULD NOT ALTER SITUATION. ALSO, WE DO NOT WISH TO
BECOME INVOLVED, AND THUS IMPLICATED IN SOME MEASURE, IN
ISRAELI HANDLING OF WHAT IS ALREADY BECOMING A SENSITIVE
ISSUE WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE THE U.S.

4. YOU MAY TELL DR. WAIYAKI THAT WE APPRECIATE KENYA'S
CONCERN, THAT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE FOR
KENYA TO CONVEY THESE CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO ISRAEL, AND
THAT WE ARE CERTAIN ISRAEL IS SENSITIVE TO KENYA'S
PROBLEMS AND WOULD WANT TO WORK WITH KENYA TO MINIMIZE ANY
DIFFICULTIES.
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